

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 L-03 INR-07 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3490

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 0638

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, JO, US

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 19614, (B) AMMAN 445, (C) AMMAN 468 (D) STATE 20859

1. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REF A AND ARE THEREFORE NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE LATEST TWIST TO THE HAWK FINANCING PROBLEM. CONCERNING EMBASSY AMMAN'S QUERY IN PARA 3 REF B CONCERNING LIKELY SAUDI REACTION TO BEING PRESSED BY THE JORDANIANS TO COME UP WITH MONEY POST HASTE, OUR REACTION ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT THE JORDANIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PRESS VERY HARD INDEED. ONE OF THE CONTINUING NAGGING PROBLEMS IN OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH THE SAB ON MILITARY MATTERS HAS BEEN THE SAUDI COMPLAINT THAT WE ARE FOREVER GIVING THEM LETTERS OF OFFER WITH EXPIRATION DATES SO NEAR IN THE FUTURE THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TIME ADEQUATELY TO CONSIDER THEM. (WHETHER SAUDI COMPLAINTS ARE JUSTIFIED IN EVERY CASE IN ANOTHER MATTER.)

2. MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN IS THEREFORE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE QUESTION OF HAVING TO SIGN AND PAY NOW OR HAVE A PROGRAM TERMINATED. HE WILL BE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOJ PROBLEM AND THE NEED THE GOJ FEELS FOR HASTE. MOREOVER, A CONTINUING PROBLEM IN THE SAUDI-JORDANIAN ARMS RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN

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THAT THEIR MEETINGS APPEAR TO TAKE PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE

OF SUCH EXQUISITE POLITENESS THAT NEITHER SIDE SEEMS INCLINED TO RAISE SUCH A COARSE SUBJECT AS MONEY, OR AT LEAST TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT AMOUNTS. IN THE FACE OF NECESSITY PERHAPS THIS FRUSTRATING PATTERN CAN NOW BE BROKEN. WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT IT IS.

3. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY AMMAN THAT SAUDI SLOWNESS IS AT LEAST IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SAUDI BUREAUCRACY, OR MORE CORRECTLY THE WAY SUCH MATTERS ARE HANDLED WITHIN THE SAG. QUESTIONS OF THIS NATURE ARE GENERALLY DEALT WITH AT THE VERY TOP OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUREAUCRACY ONLY SWINGS INTO SOME KIND OF MOTION AFTER THE DECISION TO MOVE HAS BEEN TAKEN. UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY PRINCE SULTAN HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE JORDANIAN HAWK PROGRAM WAS GOING TO BE LESS THAN HALF AS EXPENSIVE AS IT NOW APPEARS THAT IT WILL BE. IT WILL HAVE TAKEN HIM SOME TIME TO DIGEST THIS FACT. WHILE HE WAS DOING THIS WE DOUBT ANY WHEELS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION.

4. TO COMPOUND BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES, PRINCE SULTAN HAS BEEN OFF WITH THE KING IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA ON A HUNTING/INSPECTION TRIP FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS. HE HAS BEEN IN ONLY LIMITED CONTACT WITH HIS STAFF IN RIYADH SINCE THEN. WE ARE NOT THEREFORE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SAG WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE BY JAN 31 EVEN IF IT IS INCLINED TO DO SO. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE JORDANIANS SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THE EFFORT.

5. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED AMMAN 468 AND STATE 20859. WE AGREE THAT IT IS PREFERABLE THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT GET INVOLVED DIRECTLY WITH THE SAUDIS ON THIS COMPLEX ISSUE. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE IMMINENCE OF THE SAUDI WEEKEND WE DO NOT SEE HOW PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY JAN 31 IF PROCEDURES FOR MAKING THE PAYMENT HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN INITIATED. THEREAFTER IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT SOME DIRECT APPROACH TO THE SAG IS NECESSARY, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD. (THE AMBASSADOR HAS YET TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS AND HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY PRINCE SAUD THAT UNTIL HE DOES HIS CONTACTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.) THE PRINCE
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IS NOW AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE CABINET AND THIS ISSUE WILL MOST LIKELY REQUIRE CABINET ACTION. WE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM A LUCID AND PERSUASIVE ACCOUNT OF WHY IMMEDIATE SAUDI PAYMENT IS NECESSARY AFTER WHICH HE COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR US WITHIN THE CABINET.
PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: REF A (STATE 19614) BEING RETRANSMITTED TO JIDDA

1/28/76.

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